plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the data to be written to the first storage location.

2. (Amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first storage location includes a plurality of first storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the controller is capable of generating and writing the data to the plurality of first storage locations in response to a single command.

3. (Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the controller is capable of generating and writing data having a predetermined state to each of the plurality of first storage locations in response to the single command.

6. (Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of storage devices, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are [one] on different storage devices, and wherein the controller is capable of writing data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

9. (Amended) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the controller is capable of generating and writing data having a predetermined state to the first group in response to the single command.

10. (New) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the controller includes means for generating the data.

11. (New) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of disk drives.

12. (New) A method of operating a storage system in a computer system including the storage system and a host computer coupled thereto, wherein the storage system includes at least one

storage device having a plurality of storage locations, the method comprising, in response to a communication received from the host computer, acts of:

(A) generating, within the storage system, data to be written to a first storage location of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device; and

(B) writing the data to the first storage location.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the first storage location includes a plurality of first storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the data to the plurality of first storage locations in response to a single command received from the host computer.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the act (A) includes an act of generating data having a predetermined state for writing to each of the plurality of first storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

15. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be non-contiguous storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing data to any of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

16. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be storage locations on different storage devices of the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

17. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of storage devices, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are on different storage devices, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing data to

each of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

18. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the single command separately identifies the at least two storage locations.

19. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the first storage location corresponds to a logical object defined by the computer system, the logical object being formed by a first group of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device that includes the first storage location, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing data to only the first group in response to a single command received from the host computer.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the act (A) includes an act of generating the data to have a predetermined state for writing to the first group in response to the single command.

21. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the storage system is a disc drive storage system, and the at least one storage device includes a plurality of disc drives.

22. (New) A storage system for use in a computer system including a host computer, the storage system comprising:

at least one storage device having a plurality of storage locations; and

a controller that controls access to the at least one storage device from the host computer, the controller being capable of writing data to a first storage location of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the data to be written to the first storage location, the controller including means, responsive to the communication, for generating the data.